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## Sermon outline for *Immortality*

William Mardell Lynch

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# IMMORTALITY

## Introduction

I. The Christian Religion is a religion of hope.

A. Hope is a double barrelled word:

1. Desire
2. Expectation

II. The Chief object of that hope is immortality.

(A.) It is as easy to believe in the immortality of the human spirit as it is to believe in the existence of God.

(B.) What are the reasons for this hope? The evidences in favor of the Christian Religion.

1. It is a record artless, simple and sublime.
2. It is consistent with itself.
3. It is so like the truth.
4. Upon denying it we find ourselves defending the most palpable absurdities.
  - a. No truth in history.
  - b. No sincerity in martyrdom.
  - c. No value in talent and learning.
  - d. No relation between truth and goodness.
  - e. A lie is better than the truth.
  - f. Nature is a maze without a plan
  - g. There is no God!

I Peter 3:15

"But sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear.

## Discussion

(I.) Why then do we believe in Immortality?

(A.) The Love of God desires it. The love of God is an outstanding teaching of the Bible. John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Romans 5:18

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.

I John 3:1

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

B. We are his children. Acts 17:28b

"as certain even of your own poets have said, We are also his offspring."

I John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

1. Being his Children he desires our fellowship. What loving father likes to be separated from his children? Romans 8:32, 35-39

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angles, nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. He answers our prayers. Matt. 7:7-11

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seek-



eth findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, who, if his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone; or if he shall ask for a fish, will give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven, give good things to them that ask him?"

I John 5:14

"And this is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us; and if we know that he heareth us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him."

③ Throughout the Ages the voice of humanity has cried for another existence. Will the Father answer this cry?

Through nature he grants the desires of the body. There is food for hunger, water for thirst, music for the ear, beauty for the eye, wives for husbands and husbands for wives. Will God disappoint the longings of the spirits of men for immortality? Will he give a stone to the children who beg for the bread of immortality?

④ The Power of God can Give it.

The God of the Bible is all powerful. He who says God cannot give immortality limits the power of God. He is as the Sadducees of old. He "does err not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God."

Matt. 22:23-33

"On that day there came to him Sadducees, they that say that there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, Teacher, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren; and the first married and deceased, and having no seed left his wife unto his brother; in like manner the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And after them all, the woman died. In the resurrection therefore whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. But Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as angels in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitudes heard it, they were astonished at his teaching."

If God created the world, made man and all living creatures, gives to all "life, and breath, and all things," upholds and regulates the vast universe, raised Jesus from the Grave, surely he has power to give eternal life to all his creatures who qualify.

Seeing that he had the power to give us our present existence how shall we doubt his power to give us another?

As a result of his own resurrection Jesus says he has the keys of death. Rev. 1:18

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

### C. The Justice of God Demands eternal life.

- ① There are inequalities in this life that need adjusting.  
Often the wicked more highly *favoured* ~~rewarded~~ than the just in position, in health, in wealth.

While an honest man is denied a living wage, the swindler lives amid luxuries.

Tyrants are enthroned and saints are placed in dungeons. While a Nero reigns a Paul is beheaded.

A just and moral God has a law of compensation. Inequalities must one day be adjusted.

Virtue must be rewarded and vice punished. If there is no hereafter when will this be done?

### ②. What recompense has the righteous?

What reward has Paul for chains or Stephen for stones?



3. Why the discipline of life? Would the Father through the wery years train the child in the art of living, and at last drop him into oblivion?

4. What punishment for the vile? Should a Nero and a Diocletian, wade through the innocent blood and go unpunished?

*a Hitler, or Stalin, Kruchief*

5. What superiority has man?

Why should the tree live longer than the man who planted it?

Or the building last longer than those who erected it?

Why should a whale or a turtle live 500 years and he who is made in the image of God only three score years and ten?

The Justice of God cries out for an eternal existence that the inequalities of this probationary period may be adjusted. In the words of Abraham of old Gen. 18:25b "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?"

D. The faithfulness of God will bestow it.

1. Eternal life is a divine promise. John 11:25

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansion if it were not so I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

vs19 b. "... but ye behold me because I live, ye shall live also."

I Cor. 15:42,44, 49, 51-57

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It

is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

II Cor. 5:1

"For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens."

I John 3:2

"Beloved, now ~~are~~ we children of God; and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is." And every one that hath this hope set on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Conclusion:

I. God did not tease us with this hope that he might in the end mock us. He is faithful and true. His promises will be kept.

And as a pledge that this is so an advance payment has already been made. The earnest of the Spirit.  
Eph 1:13f

"in whom ye also, having heard the word of the truth



the gospel of your salvation, in whom, having also believed ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is an earnest of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, unto the praise of his glory!"

We know that the day is nigh because <sup>we see</sup> the streaks of morning light in the east.

We know that summer is approaching because the warm gentle breezes blow, the birds return and all nature bursts into new life.

We know that immortality is near because of the hope, the joy, the comfort, the fruit and the eternal blessing which our ours in Christ to enjoy.

Respected auditor how dare you live and die without the hope of immortality! Could we persuade you to become a Christian this morning?



Pharr 7-15-57

Hobbs 10-21-62

Lawton 1-20-80